

Abstract

Apparatus and methods for ultrasonically placing and monitoring a tube within the body are disclosed. A tubular apparatus in accordance with an exemplary embodiment may include a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and at least one inflatable member on the tubular member in fluid communication with an external fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material. The inflatable member may be configured to expand at least in part within a hollow body cavity or conduit to permit the tubular apparatus to be ultrasonically visualized using an ultrasound unit located outside of the patient's body.